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PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Note verbale dated 5 August 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to provide him with a copy of the Manila Declaration emanating from the Global Indigenous and Youth Cultural Olympics/Summit for Peace and Sustainable Development, held at Manila in March 1996. It may be recalled that it was during this event that the Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond was globally launched by Assistant Secretary-General Ibrahima Fall, on behalf of the Secretary-General.

In this connection, the Government of the Philippines would like to request the Secretary-General to issue the above-mentioned Declaration as a document of the General Assembly under item 109 of the provisional agenda.

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ANNEX

Manila Declaration, adopted on 2 March 1996 at the Global Indigenous and Youth Cultural Olympics/Summit for Peace and Sustainable Development

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PREAMBLE

WE, THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF THE WORLD, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH YOUTH from around the world and international delegates participating in the Global Indigenous and Youth Cultural Olympics/Summit for Peace and Sustainable Development (GICOS), held at Manila, Philippines, from 24 February to 3 March 1996 with the theme "Partnership in action with youth for peace and sustainable development",

Taking into account the aspirations, objectives and programmes of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, the outcome of recent world conferences - the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the International Conference on Population and Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women - with regard to the strengthening of the role of indigenous people, as well as the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond,

Keeping in mind the need to ensure humane cultural survival while pursuing people-oriented development,

Affirming that all peoples contribute to the diversity and richness of civilizations and cultures, which constitute the common heritage of humankind, that indigenous people are equal in dignity and rights to all other peoples and that all peoples have the right to self-determination within the context of national unity and to be different, to consider themselves different and to be respected as such,

Convinced that respect for and the preservation of indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditional practices contribute to sustained economic growth and sustainable and equitable development, including the proper management of the environment,

Recognizing that policies addressing the challenges and potentials of indigenous people and youth influence current social and economic conditions and the well-being and livelihood of future generations,

Realizing the increasingly important role of indigenous people and youth in solving the major problems facing humankind and the need to provide them with broader opportunities to play an active part in all aspects of the social, economic, political, cultural, spiritual and moral life of their peoples, as partners in development,

Acknowledging that the arts and the media should provide a space to promote cultural awareness and dialogue among indigenous people, youth and civil society,

Considering the importance of responsible leadership in providing vision, direction and resoluteness in the pursuit of a better quality of life for all people, and

Determined to act in partnership among ourselves and with cooperating Governments, the United Nations and other international organizations, as well as with non-governmental organizations, to attain the dream of peace and sustainable development,

HEREBY DECLARE:

I. INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

1. The participants commit themselves to become "partners in action" in working towards peace and sustainable development, consistent with the theme of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. In making this commitment, the participants respect, uphold and protect the rights of indigenous people to their cultural identity and arts, land, education and health, full participation in the life of society and all other rights prescribed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as other international human rights instruments.

A. Cultural identity and the arts

2. Indigenous people have the right to practice, preserve and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs, consistent with international human rights standards. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artifacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature, as well as the right to the restitution of cultural, intellectual, religious and spiritual property taken without their free and informed consent or in violation of their traditions and customs, as well as the law of the State concerned.

3. Indigenous people have the right to manifest, practice, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect and have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites; the right to the exclusive use and control of ceremonial objects; and the right to the repatriation of human remains.

4. Indigenous people have the primary right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, language, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems, arts and literature, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons.

5. Indigenous people have the right to establish their own media in their own languages. They also have the right to equal access to all forms of non-indigenous media.

6. Indigenous people are entitled to the recognition of the full ownership, control, preservation and protection of their cultural and intellectual property.

7. Indigenous people have the right to special measures to control, develop and protect their sciences, technologies and cultural manifestations, including human and other genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literature, designs and visual and performing arts.

B. Land and culture

8. Indigenous people recognize that their life and culture emerge from the land and water, and that their teachings and values perpetuate their sacred and profound relationships to the land and water. Indigenous people view themselves as part of the natural environment, and not apart from it. Therefore, indigenous people, land and culture are interdependent and constitute a sacred whole. All lands or areas occupied by them since time immemorial up to the present should be declared ancestral land and/or ancestral domain.

9. Indigenous people have the right to remain in and make full use of their lands. Relocation shall take place only with the free and informed consent of the indigenous people concerned and after agreement on just and fair compensation and, where possible, with the option of return.

C. Human rights and responsibilities

10. Indigenous people have the right to the full and effective enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms recognized in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments.

11. Every indigenous individual has the right to nationality.

12. Indigenous people shall not be subjected to ethnocide and cultural genocide and victims shall have the right of redress. Preventive measures shall be taken against:

(a) Any action that has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their ethnic identities or their cultural values consistent with international human rights standards;

(b) Any action that has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands or resources;

(c) Any form of population transfer that has the aim or effect of violating or undermining any of their rights;

(d) Any form of assimilation or integration by other cultures or ways of life on them by legislative, administrative or other measures;

(e) Any form of propaganda directed against them that would result in ethnocide or cultural genocide.

13. Indigenous people have the responsibility to adhere to and respect universally accepted principles of justice, peace, human rights and a more humane international order; they also have responsibility to work for sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

D. Education and health

14. Indigenous people, especially their children, have the right to all levels and forms of education of the State. They also have the right to establish and operate institutions providing education in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning, giving priority to qualified tribal members.

15. Indigenous children living outside their communities have the right to be provided access to education in their own culture and language.

16. Indigenous people have the right to have the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations appropriately reflected in all forms of education and public information.

17. Indigenous people have the right to equal access to medical institutions as well as to health and medical care systems.

18. Indigenous people also have the right to their traditional medicines and health practices, including the right to the protection of vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals. Their traditional knowledge as regards the identification and use of medicinal plants, animals and minerals must be protected, and where this knowledge is commercialized and applied for profit without their consent, Governments concerned must consult the indigenous people from whom such knowledge has been taken, on whether they want to be compensated and if they so desire, the Governments concerned shall assist them in securing due compensation. Measures should be taken by appropriate authority prior to distribution of such traditional medicines to ensure that these do not have detrimental effects on the health of the users.

E. Participation

19. Indigenous people have the right to participate fully, if they so choose, at all levels of decision-making in matters that may affect their rights, lives and destinies through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.

20. Indigenous people have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. The development of health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting indigenous people, and the administration of such programmes, shall be done through their own institutions and in consultation with them.

21. Indigenous people require greater control over their lands, and self-management of their resources.

22. Indigenous people should be represented, if possible at international forums, inter alia, by including them in national delegations to the United Nations.

F. Peace and sustainable development

23. Indigenous people should encourage and support the joint efforts of Governments and other groups to establish and maintain peace and national unity.

24. Peace and sustainable development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Indigenous people, who represent a significant part of the world's population, depend on renewable resources and ecosystems, as well as the condition of peace, to maintain their well-being. While they have evolved a holistic, traditional scientific knowledge of their land, natural resources and environment, their ability to practise sustainable development of their lands has been limited by economic, social and historical factors.

25. Governments and international organizations must recognize the values, traditional knowledge and resource management practices that indigenous people use to manage their environments, and apply this knowledge to other areas where development is taking place. Governments should also provide indigenous people with suitable technologies to increase the efficiency of their resource management.

26. Indigenous people have the right to maintain and develop their distinct cultural, economic and social systems, to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities. Indigenous people who have been deprived of their means of subsistence and development are entitled to due process of law and just and fair compensation.

27. Indigenous people have the right to special measures for the immediate, effective and continuing improvement of their political, economic and social conditions, including in the areas of employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.

28. International agencies and Governments are encouraged to work with indigenous people to support their development plans and priorities, religious partnerships, international trade and strengthening of local economies.

29. Indigenous people have the right to the conservation, restoration and protection of the total environment and the productive capacity of their lands and resources. Governments must recognize that indigenous lands need to be protected from environmentally unsound activities, and from activities the people consider to be politically, socially and culturally inappropriate. There should be national dispute-resolution procedures to deal with concerns about the settlement of land and use of resources.

30. Indigenous people should have access to adequate financial and technical assistance, from States and through international cooperation, to pursue freely their cultural, economic, social and spiritual development and for the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms recognized in the present Declaration.

31. Governments are encouraged to incorporate the rights and responsibilities of indigenous people into national legislation. Countries should adopt laws and policies to preserve customary practices, and protect indigenous property, including ideas and knowledge. Indigenous people should be allowed to participate actively in shaping national laws and policies on the management of resources or other development processes that affect them.

II. YOUTH

32. Young people represent a major and growing sector of the world's population and, as inheritors of the future, have an important role to play in solving the major problems facing humankind. It is necessary for them to play an active part in all aspects of the social, economic, political, educational, cultural, spiritual and moral life as partners in the development of society.

A. Education and health

33. All young people have the right to basic and relevant education and to health services in their own interest and of society as a whole. It is the responsibility of each Government to mobilize the necessary awareness, resources and channels. These measures should be supported by international cooperation.

34. Youth, especially the economically and socially disadvantaged and those with physical or mental disabilities, must have access to their right to culture. They must be allowed to strengthen their cultural bonds, looking into their historical origins to draw from the mainspring of spiritual traditions in a spirit of freedom and diversity, communicating self-worth, hope and a vision and commitment for a dignified life.

35. Opportunities for young people to pursue advanced or university education, or engage in research or be trained for self-employment, should be encouraged in developing countries.

36. Efforts should be expedited to achieve the goals of national health-for-all strategies, based on equality and social justice in line with the Alma Ata Declaration on Primary Health Care, by developing or updating country action plans or programmes to ensure universal, non-discriminatory access to basic health services, including sanitation and drinking water, to protect health, and to promote nutrition education and preventive health programmes.

37. Support should be provided for stronger, better coordinated global actions against major diseases that take a heavy toll of human lives, such as malaria, tuberculosis, cholera, typhoid fever and HIV/AIDS; in this context, support should be continued for the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

38. Governments, in cooperation with youth organizations, should promote healthier lifestyles and, in this context, should investigate the possibility of adopting policies for discouraging drug, tobacco and alcohol abuse, including the possibility of banning advertisements of tobacco and alcohol. They should also undertake programmes that inform young people about the adverse effects of drug, alcohol and tobacco addiction.

39. Programmes should be instituted, with the appropriate assistance of the United Nations bodies and organizations concerned, to train medical, paramedical and educational personnel, and personnel working with youth, in health issues of particular concern to young people, including healthy lifestyles. Research into such issues should be promoted, particularly research into the effects and treatment of substance abuse. Youth organizations should be involved in these efforts.

B. Human rights and responsibilities

40. The young generation has the right to live in peace, freedom and security in the social context, as well as the right to education, work and occupational development.

41. Governments should ensure that the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2005) is adequately observed in schools and educational institutions. In order to make youth aware of their civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, as well as their societal responsibilities, and in order to develop harmonious intercommunity relations, mutual tolerance, mutual respect, equality between women and men, and tolerance for diversity, [in the framework of their beliefs]* Governments should develop human rights education strategies targeted to youth, taking particular account of the human rights of women and the girl child.

42. Countries should combat human rights abuses against youth, especially young women and girls, and see that their children are healthy, adequately fed, educated and protected from pollution and toxic substances.

43. As recommended by the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit on Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women, and bearing in mind that young women are especially vulnerable, Governments should cooperate at the international level and take effective steps, including specific preventive measures, to protect children, adolescents and youth from neglect, abandonment and all types of exploitation and abuse, such as abduction, rape and incest, pornography, trafficking and acts of paedophilia, as well as from commercial sexual exploitation resulting from pornography and prostitution. Governments should enact and enforce legislation prohibiting female genital mutilation wherever it exists and give vigorous support to efforts among non-governmental and community organizations and religious institutions to eliminate such practices.

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* No consensus was reached on this issue, hence brackets remained.

44. The opportunities for youth to learn their rights and responsibilities, promoting their social, political, developmental and environmental participation and removing obstacles that affect their full contribution to society, must be encouraged.

C. Participation

45. Governments should consult youth and establish procedures allowing for consultations and participation of youth in decision-making processes on matters that affect them, including the environment, among others, and to involve youth at the local, national and regional levels.

46. Youth, particularly indigenous youth, should be represented if possible at international forums, inter alia, by including them in national delegations to the United Nations.

47. The rights of disadvantaged and vulnerable youth must be protected; they should be encouraged to participate fully in the life of society.

D. Peace and sustainable development

48. Peace and sustainable development plans should ensure young people a secure future, including a healthy environment, improved living standards, education and jobs.

49. Governments should be encouraged to implement youth entrepreneurship programmes.

50. Governments, in cooperation with regional and international organizations, should formulate model programmes of training for youth in individual and cooperative enterprises. They are encouraged to establish self-contained enterprise centres where young people may plan and test their enterprise venture concepts.

51. The deterioration of the natural environment is one of the principal concerns of young people worldwide as it has direct implications for their well-being at present and in the future. The natural environment must be maintained and preserved for both present and future generations. The causes of environmental degradation must be addressed. The environmentally friendly use of natural resources and environmentally sustainable economic growth will improve human life. Sustainable development has become a key element in the programmes of youth organizations throughout the world. While every segment of society is responsible for maintaining the environmental integrity of the community, youth have a special interest in maintaining a healthy environment because they will be the ones to inherit it.

52. Government should provide grants of land to youth and youth organizations, supported by financial and technical assistance and training. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Labour Organization are invited to document and disseminate

information about national experience with land-grant and settlement schemes for use by Governments.

53. Programmes aimed at learning peacemaking and dispute and conflict resolution should be encouraged and designed by Governments and educational institutions for introduction to schools at all levels. Children and youth should be informed of cultural differences in their own societies and given opportunities to learn about different cultures as well as tolerance and mutual respect for cultural and religious diversity. Governments and educational institutions should formulate and implement such educational programmes that promote and strengthen respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms; and enhance the values of peace, solidarity, tolerance, responsibility and respect for the diversity and rights of others.

54. Governments and other relevant organizations, particularly youth organizations, should consider organizing information campaigns, educational and training programmes in order to sensitize youth as well as their families to the personally and socially detrimental effects of violence in the family, community and society, teach them how to communicate without violence, and promote training so that they can protect themselves and others against violence. Governments should also develop programmes to promote tolerance and better understanding among youth, with a view to eradicating contemporary forms of racism, racial, ethnic and religious discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance, and thereby prevent violence.

55. To prevent violence and crime, the development of social organization, particularly through youth organizations and community involvement, should be fostered by a supportive social policy and within a legal framework. Government assistance should focus on facilitating the abilities of community and youth organizations to express and evaluate their needs concerning the prevention of violence and crime, to formulate and implement actions for themselves, and to cooperate with each other.

56. One of the most important tasks of youth policy is to improve the situation of girls and young women. Governments therefore should implement their obligations under international human rights instruments as well as under the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights and other programmes of relevant United Nations conferences. Girls are often treated as inferior and are socialized to put themselves last, thus undermining their self-esteem. Discrimination and neglect in childhood can initiate a lifelong downward spiral of deprivation and exclusion from the social mainstream, negative cultural attitudes and practices, as well as gender-biased educational processes, including curricula and educational materials and practices. Teachers' attitudes and classroom interaction reinforce existing gender inequalities.

E. The arts, the media and sports

57. Arts, media and sports institutions should be encouraged to promote peace and sustainable development.

58. Governments should, to the extent consistent with freedom of expression, encourage the media and advertising agencies to develop programmes to ensure widespread dissemination of information on environmental issues to continue to raise awareness thereof among youth.

59. The importance of leisure-time activities in the psychological, cognitive and physical development of young people is recognized in any society. Leisure-time activities include games, sports, cultural events, entertainment and community service. Appropriate leisure programmes for youth are elements of any measure aimed at fighting social ills, such as drug abuse, juvenile delinquency and other deviant behaviour. While leisure programmes can contribute greatly to the development of the physical, intellectual and emotional potential of young people, they should be designed with due care and concern so that they are not used as a means for excluding youth from participating in other aspects of social life or for indoctrinating them. Leisure-time activity programmes should be made freely available to young people.

60. The media should promote positive cultural awareness and dialogue among indigenous people, youth and civil society. The media should be called upon to address its image distortions of cultural groups by portraying positive images of indigenous people, youth and religion.

III. A NEW PARTNERSHIP

61. To achieve peace and people-oriented development, we, the participants, agree to forge a new partnership among indigenous people, youth and artists and we commit ourselves to fulfil the commitments and to work for the aspirations reflected in the foregoing paragraphs.

62. We agree to support ongoing and new creative partnerships, recognizing that indigenous people, youth and other disadvantaged and vulnerable groups possess in common the potential for diverse realization of full human development.

63. In the spirit of cooperative linkages for joint exploration of human potentials, we agree to focus on partnership actions that clarify, interpret, create, protect and promote socio-legal, political, economic, educational, cultural, moral and spiritual processes affecting the abilities of indigenous people and youth to choose, maintain, access, encourage, manage and actualize their diverse ways of achieving just and humane growth and development.

64. We believe that the struggle against poverty, pollution, ignorance and injustice can be won through dialogue and the arts, continuing education, cultural olympics and summits that will link the energy and idealism of youth with the wealth and wisdom of indigenous people, and thus build a bridge to

serve the dynamic flow of a new partnership for a culture of peace and sustainable development, between the keepers of Earth-based knowledge and the voices and hopes of the future. We therefore agree to mobilize the creative force of the values and culture of indigenous people, youth, the arts and the media, to stop violence against humankind and mother Earth.

65. We agree to support indigenous people, youth and other disadvantaged or vulnerable groups, as well as artists, in their pursuit of cultural identity, education and health, human rights and responsibilities, rights to land and culture, full participation in the life of society, and development in a condition of peace and in harmony with nature.

66. We agree to encourage initiatives relating to the betterment of the quality of life of indigenous people, including: (a) human rights education centres in indigenous communities staffed by volunteers; (b) training institutes for indigenous leaders to build capabilities among youth, women and artists; (c) exchange programmes to facilitate action among indigenous people and youth across borders; and (d) adequate orientation and training for government officials who may be involved in the development, establishment and maintenance of such initiatives.

67. We agree to practise and promote new partnerships in cultures and the arts, the media and communications, new and emerging arts and the information highway.

68. We agree to foster among indigenous people and youth the development of spiritual and religious energy in its personal, communitarian and social dimension.

69. We agree to promote the values of dialogue and intercultural and interreligious openness and tolerance, so that we can develop:

- The ethic of solidarity;

- The enjoyment and protection of human rights as part of our way of life;

- The conduct of consultations as the preferred approach to problems requiring policy decisions;

- The observance of production and consumption patterns supportive of the livelihood and integrity of indigenous people; and

- An atmosphere where indigenous people confidently share their wisdom with the young, and youth in turn mobilize their energy in exploring and regenerating their traditional culture.

70. Finally, we agree to take the lessons learned and the principles that emerged from this dialogue to higher levels of discussion in future international forums.